



March 11, 2011

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Legislative and
Public Affairs

Freedom of
Information

4700 River Road
Unit 50
Riverdale, MD
20737-1232

Kathy Stearns

Dear Ms. Stearns:

This is in response to your January 14, 2011, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the following information:

“Complaint filed with USDA with a follow up letter by Vernon Yates on 2/13/2008, concerning Big Cat Rescue for choking a tiger on 5/18/2007 while transporting tiger from Savage Kingdom to Big Cat Rescue. CD from Fox 13 news and a CD of still shots from video were also distributed.”

Your request was received in this office on January 14, 2011, and assigned case number FOIA 11-190. We apologize for the delay of this response.

Agency employees conducted a thorough search of their files and located 13 pages of responsive records which are enclosed on the CD-ROM. However, information that is personal in nature has been withheld pursuant to Exemption 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). This exemption protects information from disclosure when its release would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. In addition, we withheld the same information under FOIA Exemption 7(C), 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C). This exemption protects from disclosure records or information collected for law enforcement purposes when its release could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

You may appeal our partial denial of this information. If you choose to appeal, your appeal must be in writing and must be sent within 45 days of the date of this letter to:

Administrator
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Ag Box 3401
Washington, DC 20250-3401



Safeguarding American Agriculture
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Ms. Kathy Stearns
FOIA 11-190

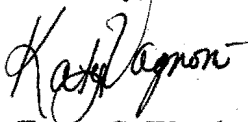
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Please refer to FOIA 11-190 in your appeal letter and add the words "FOIA Appeal" to the front of the envelope. To assist the Administrator in reviewing your appeal, provide specific reasons why you believe modification of the determination is warranted.

Also contained on the CD-ROM is a copy of this letter, a copy of your FOIA request, and a free copy of Adobe® Acrobat® Reader™ which is needed to view the responsive records. By opening rp505enu.exe and following the on-screen instructions, you will install Adobe Reader. After the installation, Adobe Reader should render the PDF files correctly.

Because the cost to process your request is less than \$25.00, the fee is waived. If you have any questions about this response, please contact Ms. Tempie Johnson of this office on (301) 734-0797.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tonya G. Woods", is written over the typed name.

Tonya G. Woods
Director
Freedom of Information & Privacy Act Staff
Legislative and Public Affairs

Enclosure